SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

EXTRA!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DOUBLE-PAGE PIN-UP of BATMAN & ROBIN!

BATMAN

JUNE
NO. 181

12¢

TROUBLE BETWEEN THE DYNAMIC DUO!

IS SHE THE CAUSE?

"BEWARE OF-- POISON IVY!"

INFANTINO & ANDERSON

BATMAN MEETS A LUSCIOUS NEMESIS--THE UNIQUE VILLAINESS--THE IRRESISTIBLE POISON IVY! HER CHARMS ARE SO CONTAGIOUS THAT THEY TRAP HIM AT EVERY TURN! CAN ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, SAVE HIS IDOL FROM A FATE FAR WORSE THAN DEATH--WHICH THE ONCE INVINCIBLE MASKED MARVEL EMBRACES EVERY CHANCE HE GETS? NO--ANYMORE THAN OUR WARNING WILL STOP YOU FROM BEING INFECTED BY THE SENSATION-SURPRISES OF:

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

Beware of... POISON IVY!

UH-OH! BATMAN'S REELING--GOING INTO A TAILSPIN FROM THAT KISS BY POISON IVY! GOT TO GET TO HIM--BEFORE ANOTHER KISS PUTS HIM COMPLETELY UNDER HER SPELL!

BOB KANE

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AT THE GOTHAM CITY MUSEUM, BRUCE WAYNE, MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN AND PLAYBOY, AND HIS YOUNG WARD DICK GRAYSON, ATTEND A SENSATIONAL "POP" ART SHOW...

WORLD PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1, DRAGON FLY

WORLD PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 2, SILKEN SPIDER

WORLD PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 3, TIGER MOTH

THERE THEY ARE, DICK! DRAGON FLY, SILKEN SPIDER, AND TIGER MOTH--THREE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN IN THE WORLD--AND THE MOST DEADLY!--STOP DROOLING! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG!

I CAN DREAM UNTIL I'M OLD ENOUGH TO TRY TO CATCH THEM, CAN'T I?

AT THAT MOMENT--A STARTLING OUTBURST...

YOU MEN ARE SUCH FOOLS! IF YOU WEREN'T SO BLIND YOU WOULD SEE THAT I'M NOT ONLY MORE BEAUTIFUL--BUT MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THOSE AMATEURS! WHY--YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW OF MY CRIMES--THEY'RE SO PERFECT! THAT'S THE ONLY MISTAKE I MADE--COMMITTING SUCH PERFECT CRIMES THAT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY PUBLICITY ABOUT THEM!

YOU ARE LUSCIOUS, DREAMBOAT! BUT--AS FOR BEING WORLD PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1--MIND PROVING THAT TO THE POLICE?

FOR YOU, HANDSOME--ANY TIME! NO HANDCUFFS ARE NEEDED--JUST SLIP YOUR ARM THROUGH MINE! AND CALL ME IVY--POYSON IVY!

ATTRACTED BY THE SENSATIONAL BEAUTY AND THE EVEN MORE SENSATIONAL CLAIM ...

WOW! THIS COULD BE A BIGGER SCOOP THAN THE DISCOVERY OF ICE CREAM! IF--- IT'S TRUE!

WITH A FACE LIKE THAT--IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH OR NOT!

SMILE FOR THE BIRDIE, *POISON IVY*, HONEY!

MIND IF I PUT A LITTLE MORE VOLTAGE IN MY MAKEUP FOR THE FLASHBULB BOYS, HANDSOME?

IT'S *YOUR* FACE!

BUT--INSTEAD OF THE FLASHBULBS MERELY POPPING--THEY EXPLODE BLINDINGLY!

POW!

BLAM!

POW!

POP!

OHHH--I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, BOYS--I'M NOT QUITE READY TO BE TAKEN TO THE POLICE! I'VE GOT A FEW *IMPERFECT* CRIMES TO COMMIT! JUST SO YOU'LL KNOW *POISON IVY'S THE REAL NO.1!*

YOUR LIPSTICK--SENT ELECTRICAL IMPULSES THAT EXPLODED THE FLASHBULBS! THAT MEANS YOU WORE TINTED CONTACT LENSES--TO PROTECT YOUR EYES!

I SEE YOU'VE GOT AN *I.Q.* TO MATCH YOUR LOOKS, HANDSOME! WE'VE STILL GOT A DATE--BUT NOT WITH THE POLICE! I HAVE SOMETHING COZIER IN MIND! I'LL CONTACT YOU WHEN I'M READY!

DON'T FORGET TO SPELL THE NAME RIGHT, BOYS! *POISON*--AS IN ARSENIC! *IVY*--AS IN IRRESISTIBLE! *TA-TA!*

IN THE MIDST OF THE TEMPORARILY-BLINDED PEOPLE--HIMSELF UNABLE TO SEE EXCEPT IN THE BLURRIEST MANNER--BRUCE MAKES A DARING CHANGE!

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER CHANGED INTO **BATMAN** IN PUBLIC! BUT NO ONE CAN SEE ME!

RECKLESSLY, THE BLINDED MASKED DETECTIVE DASHES OUT OF THE ROOM...

CAN'T WAIT FOR MY SIGHT TO RETURN TO GO AFTER **POISON IVY!** WHETHER SHE'S **REALLY** WORLD PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1 OR NOT--SHE'S A DANGEROUS **DISH!**

DANGER! ELEVATOR BEING REPAIRED!

IN HIS DARING PURSUIT, THE *ACE ATHLETE* SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF HURTLING IN A DEATH DIVE..

WHA--?! I'VE GONE THROUGH AN OPEN DOOR!

THIS FIRST STEP IS A DOOZIE!--I MUST BE IN AN ELEVATOR SHAFT...

MY HANDS ARE BRUSHING ALONG THE CABLES!--IF MY WRISTS DON'T BREAK--MAYBE I CAN SLOW MYSELF UP...

WORKMEN ARE STUNNED TO SEE THE CAPED CRUSADER HALT HIS BULLET-LIKE FLIGHT...

NO WONDER THEY CALL HIM BATMAN! DID YOU SEE THAT DIVE TO THE OPEN DOOR OF THE LOBBY?

THAT'S MY CUE TO GET OFF!

AS THE MASKED DETECTIVE IS SPOTTED BY THE SLITHERING SIREN...

BATMAN MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE BUILDING! HE'S OBVIOUSLY ON MY TRAIL! NO MATTER! I'VE ALREADY PREPARED A HUMAN ROADBLOCK FOR ANYONE COMING OUT OF THAT REVOLVING DOOR!

BATMAN IS HURLED BY THE REVOLVING DOOR TOWARD A MENACING MOB...

POISON IVY GAVE US A HUNDRED BUCKS APIECE TO STAY OUT IN THE FRESH AIR! AN' PROMISED US ANOTHER CENTURY NOTE FOR EACH MUG WE STOPPED COMIN' OUT'VE THE MUSEUM! BATMAN OUGHTA BE WORTH A COOL GRAND!

WITH THE BLINDED MANHUNTER UNABLE TO SEE THE VICIOUS BLOWS WHIZZING AT HIM...

LET'S START EARNIN' OUR OVERTIME BY FLATTENIN' THIS SQUARE!

THIS SURE IS COMBININ' BUSINESS WIT' PLEASURE!

POW!

SOK!

LIKE A BLIND MAN INGENIOUSLY RELYING ON HIS KEEN SENSE OF TOUCH...

I WAS "PATTED" ON BOTH SIDES OF MY JAW! IF THE "SENDERS" ARE STILL IN THE SAME PLACE--I CAN RETURN THE COMPLIMENT!

POW!

SOK!

AS THE MASKED MARVEL BATTLES ONE HORDE BY SOUND AND TOUCH ALONE...

BRUCE WAYNE'S CUTE -- BUT BATMAN'S A REAL HE-MAN!

POW!

ZOK!

THUD!

HOW CAN I CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM?

SOK!

ZOK!

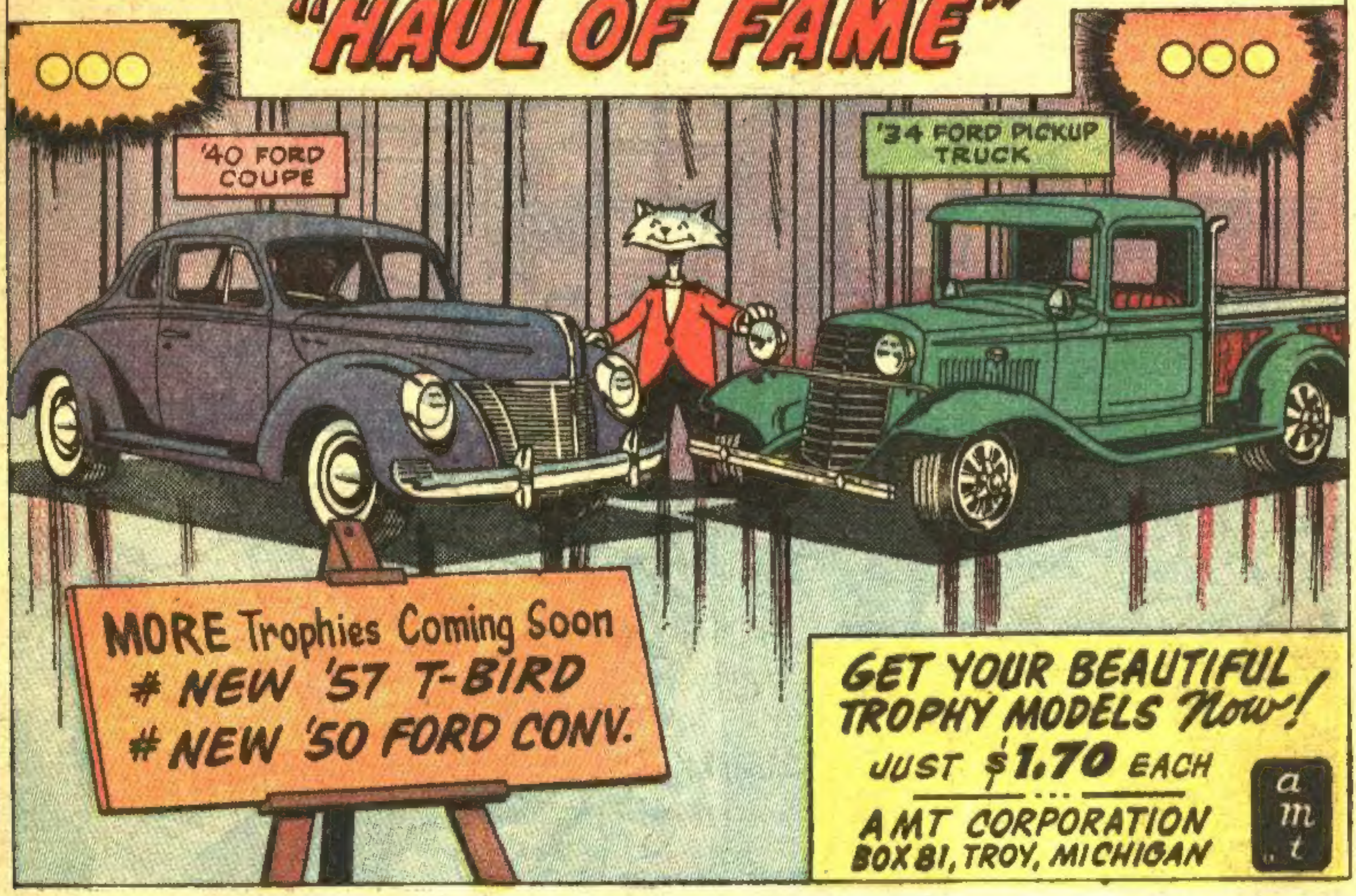
STORY CONTINUES ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

SAID A CAT SUFFOCATING
IN SQUARESVILLE:
"I HAVE MOVED TO THE
WIDE-OPEN-AIRSVILLE,
'CAUSE THOSE MAGS FROM
SET ME OFF ON A SPREE,
THEY ARE STRICTLY FROM
NONE-CAN-COMPARESVILLE."

DC

The KAT visits AMT'S new trophy "HAUL OF FAME"



A Super-Scoop!

HERE'S YOUR KEY TO

SUPERMAN'S FORTRESS of SOLITUDE!

INSIDE THE MAN of STEEL'S INNER SANCTUM...

You WILL TOUR THE FORTRESS AND VIEW ITS INCREDIBLE SECRETS!

You WILL LEARN OF THE TIMES SUPERMAN HAD HIS FORTRESS IN SPACE... UNDER THE SEA... AT THE EARTH'S CORE!

You WILL ENTER THE ASTOUNDING BOTTLE-CITY OF KANDOR!

AND You'LL SEE THE INTERPLANETARY ZOO... STRANGE TROPHIES AND SOUVENIRS... PLUS THE FORTRESS AS IT FIRST APPEARED IN 1942!

IT'S ON SALE EVERYWHERE APR. 14th

BEWARE OF--POISON IVY!--PART 2

IN THE MIDST OF BATTLING THE HUMAN ROADBLOCKS LEFT BEHIND BY POISON IVY, BATMAN'S SIGHT RETURNS AS...

ROBIN!-- WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG TO JOIN THE PARTY?

I USED THE STAIRS! I'M ALLERGIC TO OPEN ELEVATOR SHAFT DOORS!

ZOK!

OOW!!

BOP!

...

WHAT'S THAT KOOKIE LOOK IN YOUR EYES, BATMAN?

WHAAA--?...OHHH--I WAS THINKING OF HOW CUTE. POISON IVY IS-- I HATE TO PUT SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DOLL BEHIND BARS!

ZOK!

YOU'D BETTER TAKE A COLD SHOWER AND FORGET ABOUT HER, BATMAN! YOU'RE ALREADY BREAKING OUT IN A RASH ABOUT POISON IVY! REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE-- BATMAN, THE LAWMAN, THE MANHUNTER!

DON'T FORGET I'M HUMAN TOO, ROBIN! I CAN LOSE MY HEAD LIKE ANY FOOL! BUT-- I'M OKAY NOW! YOU DON'T HAVE TO WARN ME WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I KISS POISON IVY!

MEANWHILE, POISON IVY HAPPILY SCRATCHES AWAY WRITING "POISON PEN" LETTERS...

THE QUICKEST WAY TO START PROVING THAT I AM THE NO. 1 WOMAN WORLD PUBLIC ENEMY--IS TO ELIMINATE THE PRESENT NUMBERS 1, 2, AND 3-- DRAGON FLY, SILKEN SPIDER, AND TIGER MOTH!

UNAWARE THAT BRUCE WAYNE'S SECRET DUAL IDENTITY IS BATMAN...

THEN--I CAN DEVOTE ALL MY ATTENTION TO DECIDING WHICH OF THE TWO B'S SENDS ME THE MOSTEST--BRUCE-- OR BATMAN! BY STINGING THEIR MALE PRIDE!

THE CONTAGIOUS LETTERS INSTANTLY INFECT THEIR RECIPIENTS...

THE INSOLENCE OF SILKEN SPIDER! THAT NO. 2 NOBODY SAYS THAT IF I'M NOT AFRAID TO MEET HER AT THE HOME OF A NEUTRAL--SHE'LL SHOW ME THAT SHE'S THE NO. 1 NEMESIS--NOT ME! IT'S PROBABLY A TRAP! BUT--I'LL GET THERE EARLY AND SURPRISE HER!

THE NERVE OF THAT NO. 3 NUMBSKULL, TIGER MOTH! CLAIMING THAT SHE'S WOMAN PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 2--NOT ME! AND THAT I KNOW IT--OTHERWISE I'D MEET HER AT A NEUTRAL'S HOME TO DEFEND MY NO. 2 SPOT! DEFEND?--I'LL ATTACK EARLY AND SURPRISE HER!

SO!--DRAGON FLY AND SILKEN SPIDER CHALLENGE ME TO MEET THEM TO PROVE THAT I'M FIT TO BE IN THE NO. 3 SPOT BEHIND THEM? WELL--I'LL COME EARLIER THAN THEY EXPECT AND SHOW THEM I'M FIT TO BE NUMBERS 1, 2 AND 3 ALL IN ONE!

AT THE HOME OF THE MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN...

THE GALL OF POISON IVY!--INVITING BATMAN AND ME TO HER HOUSE TO PROVE TO US THAT SHE IS THE NO. 1 WOMAN CRIMINAL--AND CHALLENGING US TO BATTLE IT OUT FOR HER FAVOR!

SHORTLY... IN THE BAT-COPTER...

BRUCE WAYNE AND BATMAN ACCEPT POISON IVY'S INVITATION! ONLY SHE WON'T KNOW THAT BRUCE AND I SHARE THIS UNIFORM! WE'LL DROP IN ON HER EARLIER THAN SHE SUSPECTS AND SURPRISE HER!

I HOPE YOU WON'T WEAKEN WHEN YOU SEE HER, BATMAN!

LEAVING THE UNIQUE BAT-COPTER CIRCLING ON AUTOMATIC PILOT, THE DYNAMIC DUO DISCOVERS...

LOOKS LIKE POISON IVY SENT OUT A FLOCK OF INVITATIONS! AND EVERY-ONE SHOWED UP AHEAD OF TIME TO SURPRISE EVERYONE ELSE!

YOU CAN THANK HER FOR COLLECTING SUCH A BIG BAG OF CRIMINALS ALL IN ONE SPOT FOR US! MAYBE THE JUDGE WILL EVEN GIVE HER A FEW YEARS OFF FOR SUCH "GOOD BEHAVIOR"!

AT THE SIGHT OF THE DARING DUO...

TRUCE!-- WHILE WE SNAP UP THESE FOOLISH MALE "INSECTS" FOR DARING TO INTRUDE ON OUR PRIVATE PARTY!

AGREED!

DITTO!

SWING YOUR LINES, ROBIN!

NOW I KNOW WHAT A DUCK IN A SHOOTING GALLERY FEELS LIKE!

WING!

LIKE HUMAN PENDULUMS, THE DYNAMIC DUO SWINGS WITH PILE-DRIVER EFFECT INTO THE RAGING GANGS...

ROBIN--YOU MUST ADMIT THAT POISON IVY IS A DOLL FOR HELPING US NET ALL THESE GANGS AT ONE TIME!

SHE'S A DOLL, ALL RIGHT-- ONLY SHE BELONGS IN A DOLLHOUSE WITH BARS! AND I'M HERE TO SEE THAT YOU DON'T FORGET IT!

POW!

AS THE THREE BALEFUL BEAUTIES FLEE...

OHHHH--MUST YOU LEAVE SO SOON? I WAS GOING TO PRESENT THIS PRICELESS CROWN TO WHICHEVER ONE OF YOU PROVED THAT SHE AND SHE ALONE WAS WORTHY TO BE THE REAL NO. 1 WANTED WOMAN CRIMINAL OF THE WORLD!

I'M ELECTING MYSELF NO. 1--IT BELONGS TO ME! LET GO!

I'M DEPOSING YOU AS OF RIGHT NOW!

NEITHER OF YOU WILL GET IT. AS LONG AS I'VE GOT MY HANDS ON IT!

HOW THOUGHTLESS OF ME NOT TO MENTION THAT I USED SHOCK-PROOF GLOVES TO HOLD THE CROWN! IT'S ELECTRIFIED JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU DANCING A SIZZLING FRUG UNTIL THE POLICE GET HERE! BUT--LONG BEFORE THEY DO--I'LL START SHOWING THE WORLD WHAT THE REAL NO. 1 CAN DO IN CRIMES A LITTLE LESS THAN PERFECT--SO EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT THEY WERE COMMITTED BY THE QUEEN OF CRIME--ME--POISON IVY!!

OWWOOO--OHHHHHH--!

BRUCE DIDN'T EVEN ACCEPT MY INVITATION! I WOULD BE PEEVED BY THIS SLIGHT--IF I WEREN'T SO THRILLED BY BATMAN IN ACTION!

THE MASKED MANHUNTER IS STARTLED BY THE MOST FANTASTIC INVITATION IN HISTORY...

FORGET ALL THIS NONSENSE OF FIGHTING FOR THE LAW, BATMAN! JOIN ME! TOGETHER--WE CAN BE THE NO. 1 ROYAL COUPLE OF CRIME! WHY FIGHT IT? FATE MEANT IT THAT WAY! ALL IT WILL TAKE--

--IS THIS KISS TO PROVE IT!

UH-OH!--BATMAN'S REELING!--HE'S GOING INTO A TAILSPIN! BATMAN--BEWARE OF--POISON IVY!!

ZOK

SNIFF-SNIFF...NO WONDER SHE HAD YOU SPINNING, BATMAN! SNIFF-SNIFF...SHE'S WEARING A LIPSTICK WITH A CHLOROFORM BASE! SNIFF-SNIFF... I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WEARING A NOSE-FILTER NOT TO BE AFFECTED?

SMARTIE-PANTS! NO WONDER THEY CALL YOU THE BOY WONDER! BUT--BATMAN WOULD HAVE FALLEN FOR ME ANYWAY--IF I JUST USED KETCHUP INSTEAD OF LIPSTICK!

BEFORE THE DAZED DUO'S STARTLED GAZE...

BATMAN! SHE'S CLIMBING STRAIGHT UP THAT WALL--LIKE SHE WAS IVY! WE'VE GOT TO STOP HER!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, JUNIOR! BATMAN'S UNDER MY SPELL! I'VE CLIPPED HIS WINGS!

AS IF SHRUGGING HIMSELF AWAKE FROM THE VIVACIOUS VILLAINESS' SPELL, BATMAN HURLS HIS BATARANG AT HER...

SWIIIIIISH!

GOOD SHOT, BATMAN!

YOU'VE CAUGHT "POISON IVY", BATMAN-- HA, HA, HA!

NEXT STOP--A CELL IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

I WARN YOU, BATMAN, ONCE YOU'VE CAUGHT POISON IVY--YOU'LL NEVER GET RID OF IT! I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT GETTING OUT OF HERE--YOU WILL HELP ME! JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!

THUS "ENDS" ONE OF BATMAN'S MOST ASTONISHING BATTLES AGAINST VILLAINY! BUT--DID HE REALLY WIN? ONCE CAUGHT, "POISON IVY" DOES BREAK OUT AGAIN AND AGAIN! WILL BATMAN BECOME A VICTIM TO THE CHARMS OF THE INESCAPABLE, DELIGHTFUL BUT DANGEROUS POISON IVY?

YOU HAVEN'T LONG TO FIND OUT--ONLY TILL THE NEXT ISSUE OF

BATMAN!

EGG FU

The ORIENTAL MASTERMIND...

...WHOM IT TOOK THE MIGHTY WONDER WOMAN TWO WHOLE ISSUES TO FLATTEN--HAS A ROBOT TWIN BEHIND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN WHO BAKES THE UNIQUE METAL MEN IN A CONCOCTION OF CATASTROPHE in...

"BIRTHDAY CAKE for a CANNIBAL ROBOT!"

ON SALE APRIL 21st

SCOOTER? Who HE?

FORSOOTH, FROM WILL THE SHAKESPEARE'S PAD
ALACK, THERE CAME THIS SWINGIN' CAT
EGAD, HE DIGGED US SO, THIS LAD
'S' BLOOD, WE'RE NOW HIS HABITAT!
GADZOOKS, THOSE KOOKS AT **DC** BOAST
ODDS BODKINS, **SCOOTER**'S STRICTLY BOSS
I' FAITH, HIS NEW MAG IS THE MOST
HOW NOW, OUR *GAIN* IS ENGLAND'S *LOSS!*

INFANTINO + ANDERSON

BEST BAT-WISHES
Batman and Robin

INFANTINO
ANDERSON

BEST BAT-WISHES
Batman and Robin

ANOTHER "MYSTERY ANALYSTS of GOTHAM CITY" THRILLER!

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

THE FINEST DETECTIVE BRAINS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY BELONG TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY! YET EVEN THE MINDS OF THESE MYSTERY-SOLUTION MARVELS ARE STUMPED WHEN THE STRANGE EVENTS OF A REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING BEGIN TO UNFOLD! FOR THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN MARKED AS DUPES IN THE AMAZING CASE WHICH GOES INTO THEIR RECORDS AS...

WE MISSED BATMAN-- AND HE GOT JOE!

YEAH--BUT WE KNOCKED THOSE DRAPES DOWN AROUND HIM! WE CAN PLUG HIM NOW WITHOUT ANY DANGER!

POW!

BOOKS

"THE PERFECT CRIME... SLIGHTLY IMPERFECT!"

THE STARS DO KILL
BY KAYE DAYE

THIS IS THE MYSTERY NOVEL WHICH HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE BEST MYSTERY-DETECTIVE NOVEL OF THE YEAR, AND SO WON...

...THE COVETED SHERLOCK AWARD GIVEN ANNUALLY TO THE AUTHOR OF THAT BOOK! IN THIS CASE IT IS...

SHERLOCK

-- KAYE DAYE --WHO AT THIS MOMENT IS ATTENDING THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY...

FELLOW MEMBERS, BEFORE ADJOURNING TO ATTEND THE SHERLOCK AWARD DINNER, I MUST CONFESS --

I DID NOT WRITE THE STARS DO KILL!

WH-WHAT?!

PROTESTING ALONG WITH DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON ARE ARM-CHAIR DETECTIVE MARTIN TELLMAN, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR HUGH RANKIN, NEWSMAN ART SADDONS AND-- BATMAN!..

YOU MUST BE JOKING, KAYE!

NO PUBLISHER WOULD DARE BRING OUT A BOOK UNDER YOUR NAME IF YOU HADN'T WRITTEN IT...

LET'S HEAR KAYE OUT...

LAST YEAR WHEN I WAS IN EUROPE ON A VACATION ...

... SOMEBODY SUBMITTED A MANUSCRIPT TO MY PUBLISHER--UNDER MY NAME! IT READ EXACTLY LIKE MY STYLE--HE HAD NO REASON TO DOUBT I'D WRITTEN IT--AND SO HE PUBLISHED IT! WHEN I SAW IT IN PRINT, I ALMOST COLLAPSED--!

SINCE THE BOOK WAS IN THE STORES AND SELLING WELL, I DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE ON MY OWN-- FIND OUT WHO PULLED SUCH A HOAX--AND WHY! I GOT NOWHERE! NOW, INASMUCH AS THE BOOK WON THE SHERLOCK AWARD, I'VE DECIDED TO TELL THE TRUTH AND REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD!

SUDDENLY AN EERIE VOICE ERUPTS FROM THE PIN ON HER DRESS ...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ACCEPTING THAT AWARD, MISS DAYE! FOR AT THE EXACT MOMENT OF TEN O'CLOCK WHEN THE AWARD IS ABOUT TO BE PRESENTED TO YOU-- YOU WILL DIE!

THE MASKED MANHUNTER IS THE FIRST TO REACH THE STUNNED NOVELIST...

YOU ALL RIGHT, KAYE? DON'T WORRY--WE WON'T LET ANY-THING HAPPEN TO YOU!

I SHOULD SAY NOT! WHY, THE FINEST DETECTIVE BRAINS OF THE COUNTRY ARE ASSEMBLED IN THIS ROOM! WE CAN TRACK DOWN THE ONE WHO MADE THIS THREAT-- BEFORE HE CAN HARM YOU!

FRIENDLY VOICES BRING A SMILE OF RELIEF TO THE TREMBLING WRITER...

THEN YOU WANT ME TO GO TO THE AWARD DINNER-- ACCEPT THE *SHERLOCK*...

OF COURSE! WE'LL ACT OUT THIS DRAMA TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION!

YOU'LL BE SAFE AND YOUR WOULD-BE KILLER BEHIND BARS!

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME-- LESS THAN TWO HOURS! LET'S GET STARTED!

WHILE YOU OTHERS GUARD KAYE, I'LL GO OUT AND INVESTIGATE THE DEATH THREAT! DON'T LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT--AND AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE-- ALL OF YOU GO INTO ACTION!

SWIFTLY, FOR HE IS WORKING AGAINST TIME ITSELF, THE *COWLED CRUSADER* RACES FROM THE CLUBHOUSE AND..

MY INVESTIGATION STARTS WITH THE *ODD COINCIDENCE* OF KAYE HAPPENING TO WEAR THAT BROOCH TONIGHT! IF SHE HADN'T WORN IT, THAT PREPARED THREAT WOULDN'T HAVE MATERIALIZED...

UNLESS--KAYE *KNEW* THAT THREAT WAS TO BE MADE! FOR HOW ELSE WOULD HER WOULD-BE MURDERER KNOW SHE WAS GOING TO WEAR THAT PARTICULAR PIN THAT WAS GIMMICKED UP TO SPEAK?

ALL OF WHICH PUTS A DIFFERENT LIGHT ON THINGS! THE *KAYE DAYE* AT THE MEETING MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE *REAL* KAYE DAYE! ASSUMING I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK, I'LL GO TO HER APARTMENT AND SEARCH FOR A CLUE TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HER...

AT THE PENTHOUSE APARTMENT OF THE FAMED MYSTERY STORY WRITER, MINUTES LATER...

THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED! CURIOUS! AND HOW ABOUT THE SET-UP HERE...?

KAYE WAS INTERRUPTED IN THE VERY MIDDLE OF A WORD WHILE SHE WAS TYPING! THE COFFEE IS COLD, ONLY HALF-FINISHED. I'LL TRY AND RECONSTRUCT WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED...

IN HIS MIND'S EYE THE *DEDUCTIVE DETECTIVE* VISUALIZES KAYE DAYE TYPING ON HER NEW BOOK, A CUP OF STEAMING COFFEE AT HER SIDE AS...

"SOMEONE CAME IN THROUGH THE DOOR, TAKING HER BY SURPRISE-- SAY, WITH GUN IN HAND..."

HOLD IT, MISS DAYE! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

"OBVIOUSLY SHE COULD NOT LEAVE A CLUE IN PLAIN SIGHT, RIGHT UNDER THE EYES OF HER VISITOR! BUT KAYE'S A VERY RESOURCEFUL GIRL. COULD SHE HAVE FOUND A WAY TO LEAVE SUCH A CLUE, UNSEEN?..."

SURE ENOUGH! HERE BENEATH HER TYPING DESK ARE MARKS MADE BY KAYE'S HIGH HEEL IN THE HIGHLY WAXED AND POLISHED PARQUET FLOOR! NUMBERS THAT READ-- 117!

THERE ARE ONLY TWO PENTHOUSE APARTMENTS HERE-- 116 WHERE KAYE LIVES, AND THE NEXT-DOOR ONE-- 117! SHE RECOGNIZED THE INTRUDER AND GUESSED WHERE HE'D TAKE HER! ORDINARILY I'D INVESTIGATE FURTHER, BUT TIME'S RUNNING SHORT! A HUMAN LIFE'S AT STAKE AND THAT CALLS FOR BOLD MEASURES!

"THE ONLY PART OF KAYE DAYE THE INTRUDER WOULD NOT SEE WOULD BE HER FEET AND HIGH-HEELED SHOES!"

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE ADJOINING PENTHOUSE...

WHO'S THAT? FERN HUNTER WOULDN'T KNOCK--

IT MIGHT BE SUSPICIOUS IF WE DIDN'T ANSWER! GO SEE WHO IT IS!

KNOCK!

KNOCK!

BATMAN! WHA-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I'M HERE TO GET KAYE DAYE!

THE KEEN AND OBSERVANT EYES OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE OBSERVE THE DAWNING DISMAY-- THE STARTLED SURPRISE-- THE GROWING GUILT-- IN THE FACES OF THE THREE MEN...

HE'S WISE TO US!

YEAH! GUN HIM DOWN!

I FIGURED I WAS RIGHT IN MY READING OF KAYE'S CLUE! THE RESPONSE OF THESE MEN PROVES IT!

HE USED JOE-- LIKE A WEAPON! IT'S UP TO YOU, CHUCK!

CHUCK MAKES HIS MOVE... BUT SO DOES A BATMAN-BOLT OF ANGRY LIGHT-NING...

MISSED!

I'LL GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO "CHAIR" HIM UP!

BAM!

AS BATMAN HURLS THE CHAIR AT HIS ADVERSARY HE IS KNOCKED OFF BALANCE BY ANOTHER...

BLAM!

WITH RAZOR-SHARP REFLEX ACTION, THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER BOUNCES BACK, SENDING HIS QUARRY FLYING THROUGH SHATTERING FRENCH DOORS--EVEN AS A STRAY BULLET HITS A DRAPE CORD, DROPPING A HEAVY DRAPE OVER HIS BODY!

CRASH!

BATMAN WHIRLS-- AND WITH REFLEXES AS QUICK AND SURE AS ANY TIGER...

WHAT WORKS AGAINST ME-- CAN WORK FOR ME! NOW THOSE TWO GUNSELS CAN'T SEE ME! I'VE TURNED THIS DRAPE INTO A HUGE BULLFIGHTER'S CAPE!

BUT I CAN SEE THEM -- IN THAT MIRROR!

AIMING BY REFLECTION AND A HIGH DEGREE OF INSTINCT, THE COWLED CRUSADER CATAPULTS FORWARD...

HEY-- WHAT--!

ZOK!

A COLOSSUS OF CRUSHING POWER, HE WHIRLS AND...

SOCK

HE DOES NOT PAUSE! HIS MIGHTY BODY EXPLODES WITH RAW POWER AS HE PLUNGES RECKLESSLY THROUGH FALLING GLASS AND SPLINTERING WOOD...

HE DOESN'T HOLD STILL LONG ENOUGH TO-- G-GET A B-BEAD ON HIM!

HE DROPS LIKE A HUNTING FELINE! ONE HAND CHOPS AT A GUN ARM! THE OTHER...

OKAY-- NOW TO FIND KAYE--!

THUD!

AWARE THAT THEY ARE BATTLING FOR FREEDOM AND AGAINST A LONG JAIL TERM, THE TWO OTHER GANGSTERS BURST TOWARD THE SHATTERED DOORS...

HERE'S WHERE WE TAKE HIM!

HE AIN'T GOT EYES IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD!

BUT EVEN AS FINGERS TIGHTEN ON TRIGGERS...

THE LIVING ROOM LIGHTS ARE ON--BEHIND THOSE GUYS! THIS IS LIKE HAVING A BOMB-SIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!

HIS HEAVILY THEWED LEGS DRIVE UP AND BACKWARD..

THERE'S A BIT OF MISSOURI MULE IN ME, FELLAS! YOU'LL BE ASLEEP FOR AWHILE--TIME ENOUGH TO FIND KAYE-DAYE!

SOK!

THUD!

SECONDS AFTERWARD, IN A WALK-IN CLOSET...

I WAS COUNTING THE MINUTES TILL MY 10 O'CLOCK *DEAD*-LINE-- BUT SOMEHOW I KNEW YOU'D SAVE ME, *BATMAN*...

THANKS TO YOUR CLUE, KAYE!

MOMENTS BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK, "KAYE DAYE" RISES AT THE *SHERLOCK* AWARD DINNER TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE APPLAUSE GIVEN HER AS THE YEAR'S OUTSTANDING MYSTERY NOVELIST...

THE POLICE ARE EVERYWHERE! IF ANYBODY CAN EVADE THEM, HE'LL HAVE TO BE *INVISIBLE*!

AND ALL THE *MYSTERY ANALYSTS* ARE SCATTERED ABOUT AT GOOD VANTAGE POINTS!

THE PRESENTATION SPEECH IS MADE! THE SECONDS TICK AWAY. "KAYE DAYE" IS STILL ALIVE...

THIS IS IT!

THAT GAL HAS IRON NERVES!

IT'S PAST TEN! THE DANGER'S OVER!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCE-MENT TO MAKE...

AND THEN IN RINGING TONES, A VOICE BOOMS OUT...

HOLD IT! I'LL GIVE OUT WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENTS HERE --

BATMAN! YOU MUST'VE NABBED KAYE'S WOULD-BE KILLER! WHO WAS IT?

THAT WOMAN WHO IS MASQUERADING AS KAYE DAYE! ARREST HER, COMMISSIONER!

TO THE STUNNED AMAZE-MENT OF THE ASSEMBLAGE, THE COWED CRUSADER LEADS FOR-WARD THE REAL AUTHOR OF "THE STARS DO KILL"...

THEY'RE LOOK-ALIKES!

OUTWARDLY, YES--BUT ONCE THE OTHER'S DISGUISE IS REMOVED, SHE'LL BE SHOWN UP FOR THE PHONY SHE IS!

AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE IMPERSONATOR IS CONFRONTED BY HER FELLOW CONSPIRATORS...

THEY HAVE ALREADY CONFESSED THAT YOU HIRED THEM TO KILL KAYE DAYE AT TEN O'CLOCK TONIGHT!

THAT'S *THEIR* STORY! I KNOW FROM NOTHING! ALL YOU HAVE ON ME IS THE CHARGE OF IMPERSONATING SOMEONE ELSE!

BUT NEXT DAY, WHEN *BATMAN* RETURNS TO SPEAK WITH THE PRISONER...

I'VE BEEN DOING SOME CHECKING UP! I'VE LEARNED YOU'RE AN ACTRESS NAMED FERN HUNTER--KAYE DAYE'S COUSIN--AND THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER LEFT HIS TWO MILLION DOLLAR ESTATE TO KAYE UPON HIS DEATH! IF SHE DIED BEFORE YOU, *YOU* WERE TO GET IT!

BUT HOW COULD FERN HUNTER HAVE HOPED TO GET AWAY WITH IT? SURELY SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN WE'D BE SUSPICIOUS OF HER PART IN KAYE'S MURDER, SINCE SHE WOULD INHERIT THE MONEY!

I CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION, GENTLEMEN! FERN HUNTER WOULD HAVE CLAIMED SHE HAD BEEN ON THE STAGE OF THE *GOTHAM THEATER* LAST NIGHT AT TEN O'CLOCK! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PERFECT ALIBI!

WANTED

MY NAME IS NANCY OWENS! I'M AN ASPIRING ACTRESS FERN HUNTER TOOK UNDER HER WING. SHE COACHED ME, SHE TAUGHT ME, UNTIL I COULD PLAY HER PART ON THE STAGE JUST AS SHE DID! FERN TOLD ME SHE WANTED TO QUIT THE SHOW...

...AND IF I FOOLED EVERYONE PLAYING HER ROLE LAST NIGHT, SHE COULD LEAVE AND I, WOULD TAKE HER PLACE! NO ONE WOULD EVER HAVE KNOWN IT WAS NOT THE *REAL* FERN HUNTER ON THAT STAGE! WITH A *BRUNETTE WIG*, I WAS MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE HER!

UNLESS NANCY *TALKED*! THAT MEANS FERN HUNTER HAD HER MARKED FOR DEATH, ALSO!

SOME EVENINGS LATER, AT A SPECIAL *MEETING OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS*...

WE'VE ALL BEEN DOING SOME INVESTIGATION ON YOUR CASE, KAYE! HUGH, START IT OFF--

I LEARNED THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR FAME AS A MYSTERY WRITER, KAYE--AND DECIDED TO LEAVE HIS MONEY TO YOU! THIS EMBITTERED FERN--WHO WAS GOING TO "SHOW HIM" HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE--

ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE MARTIN TELLMAN TAKES UP THE TALE...

NOT ONLY WAS FERN GOING TO HAVE YOU KILLED TO INHERIT TWO MILLION DOLLARS, BUT SHE WAS GOING TO DO IT IN A WAY THAT WOULD PROVE SHE COULD "PLAN" A PERFECT CRIME TOO--DRESSED UP WITH MISLEADING CLUES! HERS WOULD BE A *REAL-LIFE* MURDER, NOT A FICTIONAL ONE!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON ADDS HIS INFORMATION...

AFTER FERN'S CONFEDERATES KILLED YOU AT TEN, THEY WERE TO RETURN YOUR BODY TO YOUR OWN APARTMENT, WITH PLANTED EVIDENCE PROVING THE TIME OF YOUR DEATH!

CRIME REPORTER ART SADDONS SMILES GRIMLY...

IF THE FINGER OF SUSPICION POINTED TO FERN HUNTER--SHE'D HAVE A PERFECT ALIBI! IF IT POINTED AT THE PHONY KAYE DAYE--SHE'D HAVE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! THE *MYSTERY ANALYSTS* WOULD HAVE BEEN STUCK WITH AN UNSOLVABLE MYSTERY!

BUT THANKS TO *BATMAN'S* QUICK WORK--I'M ALIVE!

I WONDER IF NANCY OWENS REALIZES SHE ALSO OWES HER LIFE TO YOU, *BATMAN?*

RIGHT! NANCY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE NEXT VICTIM! AND FERN HUNTER WOULD HAVE PULLED OFF THE PERFECT CRIME!

AS IT IS, IT GOES INTO OUR RECORDS AS ANOTHER *IMPERFECT* CRIME!

THE END 12

Captured AT LAST! SHAGGY MAN- EARTH MENACE No. 1!

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

AND YET, AFTER THE BATTERING, BRUISING BATTLE TO CAPTURE ITS ALL-POWERFUL FOE, THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* TURNS HIM LOOSE--TO GO ON A RAMPAGE AGAIN!

DON'T MISS THE EXCITING EXPLANATION FOR THIS SENSATIONAL SWITCH *in*

ON SALE APR. 26th

DC
SUPER-STRUGGLE AGAINST SHAGGY MAN!
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
12
The JUSTICE LEAGUERS WERE WARNED THERE WAS NO WAY TO DEFEAT SHAGGY MAN- BUT THEY WERE WILLING TO DIE TRYING!

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor: A few comments on the February *Batman*; but let me warn you here and now that if this letter seems to contain only praise, it's accomplished the job for which it was intended.

First off, Bob Kane's artwork was up to the usual high standard that he is now setting for himself. There was a time, which I dimly seem to recall, that Bob Kane's work was not held in such high esteem by this reader. Looking at the work he is producing today, it seems almost incredible that he is the same artist.

Now to the stories themselves. After a long argument with myself I think I would pick "The Loan Shark's Hidden Hoard" as the better of the two stories. Although the action in "Raid of the Rocketeers" was by far the better, the human interest side of the second story appealed to me even more. I really enjoyed the introduction of *Rosy* and *Weeper* into the story, and would like them to return as soon as their sentences are up, but to have reformed completely and become staunch supporters of *Batman* and *Robin*.

Another fine point of this issue was the increased performance of *Robin*. I like the new image he has been given; one of a more mature teen who likes to crack jokes in even the dimmest situations. Also the friendly joking which occurs between *B* and *R* helps to add new depth to the characters, which formerly they were lacking.

To wrap it all up I can truthfully say that if stories like these keep continuing, I know one reader who is going to have to completely revamp his favorite hero line-up. —Jeff Sosnaud, San Francisco, Calif.

(Beautiful sounding notes like this one makes our "horn of plenty" floweth over—until we come up with a "clinker" which makes us wonder how it's possible for two readers —such as the ones above and below—to be so many miles apart, geographically as well as critically, over the very same issue! —Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: The February *Batman* was a disappointment in many ways. To start off, the cover art was poor.

Your first story, "Raid of the Rocketeers," was the poorest one since issue 173 and *Mr. Incognito*. The dialogue was completely ridiculous. The rocket director, Professor Nelson, seemed like a schoolboy the way he had to "redeem the family honor." Worse was the way *Batman* and *Robin* "fought" in the dialogue.

Your second story, with loan shark "Shark" Sharkey, was boring and far-fetched. I don't believe *anyone* would borrow from someone at 100% interest.

Bob Kane's art was a letdown this time. In the second story, "Sharkey" seemed all mouth. *Rosy* and *Weeper* seemed a poor Laurel and Hardy.

The only thing that particularly impressed me about the whole issue was the "Warden Willis" cartoon on the back page. —R. Bryn Ohme, Des Moines, Iowa.

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Dear Editor: *Batman* 178, though most entertaining, seemed to me to have too much accent on the wisecracks. It's kind of ridiculous to say that, upon seeing a rocket ship crashing, someone would burst out with a "Maybe it's one of the missing rockets—taking a detour! HA-HA-HA!"

On the other hand, this sort of thing puts a wonderful finishing touch on something like "The Loan Shark's Hidden Hoard!" This, by the way, was the better of the two; it had a subtle but fulfilling humor about it.

Robin is becoming a typical, normal everyday type red-blooded American teen-ager—big-mouthed, obnoxious, and know-it-all. I suppose this is your desired effect, but I know very few normal, red-blooded teen-agers who would be caught dead in some silly red costume parading around in public as a crime-fighter. And to be thinking "Haven't . . . even . . . breath . . . left . . . for . . . a . . . wisecrack . . ." while one is drowning, is as unrealistic as I don't know what. —Mickey Gaither, Ellicott City, Md.

(As unrealistic as *camp?* —Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: After reading "Raid of the Rocketeers" in the February *Batman* I'm sure a new writer has joined the *Batman* bullpen. The style of writing is completely different from either Fox, Herron, or Broome, the three mainstays. It might be the veteran Bill Finger, but I doubt it. The story had everything that *Batman* needs to have a story that clicks: (1) Plenty of action; (2) very good art; (3) practically a pun per panel; (4) very good supporting characters; (5) a good, though not outstanding villain.

My guess for the authorship is Nelson Bridwell, our man on the inside. But whoever it was, I hope he continues to write for *Batman* and keeps that style. It mixes well with the other top-flight styles of the other *Batman* scripters. —Mike Friedrich, Castro Valley, Calif.

(An *interesting* deduction, but it laid an egg. The real *hatching* job was done by the follow-up correspondent. —Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: Guess the author, eh? Well, I have some sneaky suspicions but I'll go about it in a scientific manner. Since it's not Fox, Finger, Broome, or Herron, it would have to be either Kanigher, Hamilton or Drake. I will rule out Arnold Drake for the reason that the story was a bit too wild as far as violence is concerned. Mr. Drake also lacks the reality in his stories which this one had in tremendous proportions. Edmond Hamilton (who does the *Batman-Superman* stories for *World's Finest*) and Robert Kanigher are both likely suspects, but with Kubert (who does most of his fine work for RK) doing some *Batman* covers now, I'd just have to put my money down on Robert Kanigher. —Ken Hodl, Chicago, Ill.

(You put your money on the winning writer! Bob Kanigher, incidentally, has come up with another winner with this issue's "Beware of—Poison Ivy!" —Editor)

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Personal replies will be honored only if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING — WRITE!